

MAR 15 1924 ✓

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THE DANCING CHEAT ✓

Photoplay in Five Reels ✓

Directed by Irving Cummings

Story by Calvin Johnson ✓

Author of the Photoplay (under Section 62) ✓

Universal Pictures Corporation of U.S. ✓

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"THE DANCING CHEAT"

Universal Attraction

Starring HERBERT RAWLINSON

BROWNLOW CLAY, scion of an old family of the aristocracy that was of the South before the Civil War, and that still owns fat acres and bred fine horses, goes to Tia Juana in the hope that by speculation he might augment the diminishing fortunes that threaten to place the home of his forefathers in possession of money lenders. He becomes proprietor of a gambling place, the most elaborate of its kind in Tia Juana, where the games of chance are run on "the square," and where only the elite are admitted as patrons.

One night Clay goes to a cafe where "Poppy" Marie Andrews, a dancer, has become the flame of attraction. She flirts with him, but he is indifferent and this indifference piques the woman at whose feet a thousand men have flung their offerings. "Poppy" is the wife of "Denker" Eddie Kane, a gambler who had been barred from Clay's place, and who would descend to any depths from scheming to gain money. He goes to his wife, who has separated from him, but is not divorced, to induce her to take part in a scheme to blackmail Clay.

"Poppy" goes to Clay's apartment above his gambling hall and, feigning illness, gains sanctuary. Clay, not knowing her to be the wife of Kane, administers to her supposed illness of condition, and she, making him believe that she is more sinned against than a sinner, leads him to an avowal of love. Kane follows her to Clay's apartment, where she has had the chaperonage of his old family servant, and demands of Clay that "My wife be permitted to accompany me."

Clay, stunned by the realization that he has been made the victim of a plot disclosed when Kane demands hush money, refuses to listen to any explanation from "Poppy," who departs with her husband. But there transpires that which makes Clay see things in a different light, and "Poppy," flame of the cafes, finally finds safe haven in his love, and the gambling world knows them no more.

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